Tourism Potential surveys conducted in Maharashtra

2683. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of tourism potential surveys conducted during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted of Raigad and Sindhudurg districts of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to conduct tourist potential surveys of these districts in the light of Konkan Railway Project?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 tourism potential surveys were conducted in Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu, Kota-Bundi-Jhalawar region and Varanasi-Allahabad-Mirzapur region.

(b) and (c) The tourism potential survey of Western Ghats covered both the districts of Raigad and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra. In addition a detailed survey of Raigad district is under progress; and

(d) Does not arise.

ITDC misusing the commercial space of Hotel Janpath

2684. SHRI N. E. BALARAM Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the ITDC's Corporate Divisions earlier located and functioning from Himalaya House Building, New Delhi, is now operating for the last about two years from the Janpath Hotel premises thereby misusing the commercial space of the Hotel as well as paying huge rental for the both premises;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the amount actually paid/to be paid for unused Himalaya House premises by ITDC during the last two years and the amount charged/to be charged by Hotel Janpath for and on behalf of the Marketing Division, as rent, electricity, water and telephone charges etc. for the last two years;

(c) whether there is any plan of ITDC to utilise the Himalaya House premises by its Marketing Division if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Due to fire in the Himalaya House Building, New Delhi, ITDC's offices located there had to be shifted to Hotel Janpath in May, 1991. The rent for the space in Himalaya House and Janpath Hotel for the period from May 1991 to March, 1992 works out to Rs. 1.94 lakhs and Rs. 23.22 lakhs respectively. ITDC proposes to relocate these offices back in Himalaya House Building.

Disinvestment of ITDC

2685. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DOT have ultimately taken a policy decision to allow dis-investment upto 40 per cent in some of the ITDC hotel properties;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reasons for allowing dis-investment in ITDC's particular set of hotels to multinational companies/foreign investors and forming joint venture companies with them at this juncture;

(c) what will be the shape of Management to control/run the above proposed joint companies and in which manner the said management will be accountable to Government, Parliament and Shareholders; and

(d) whether any MOU or Agreement has been signed with any of the foreign investors as on date for some of the ITDC hotels, if so, the details thereof and terms and conditions of the said agreement/MOU?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The proposal for setting up joint ventures with international hotel chains for the purpose of developing some ITDC hotel properties has been approved in principle by the Govt. In such joint ventures, the equity participation of ITDC can be up to 40 per cent. There is no proposal to dis-invest equity of ITDC.

(c) and (d) Negotiations are being held with international hotel chains to form joint venture companies with ITDC. No final decision has been taken in the matter.

Streamlining of production and publicity division of ITDC

2686. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the ITDC's divisions previously known as 'Production and Publicity Division was streamlined and strengthened in 1971-72 exclusively for the print publicity programme of Department of Tourism;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the activities performed by the said division of ITDC are now almost on the verge of collapse/closure since Department of Tourism is not giving sufficient print production/publicity jobs to ITDC for the last over four years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what efforts are being made by Government/ITDC to revive the above mentioned P and P Division/activity of ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Production and Publicity Division has been recently re-vamped into the Marketing Division by ITDC and gets more business from the Central and State Departments of Tourism.

Modernisation of Airports in Madhya Pradesh

2687. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have selected some airports in the country for modernisation and making them ideal airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the number of airports which are likely to be modernised in the State of Madhya Pradesh under the modernisation plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) There is a proposal for developing twelve airports as model airports, viz. Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Indore, Vadodara, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Calicut, Patna, Bhubaneshwar, Guwahati and Imphal. Modernisation programme includes construction of new Terminal Building/expansion of existing Terminal Building, wherever possible, extention of runway to 7500 ft., provision of latest landing aids and other operational infrastructure. The task will commence in 1992-93 and is likely to be completed by end of 1994.

Disinvestment of ITDC properties

2688. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITDC employees have expressed their discontentment and are not in favour of the proposed 'Joint Venture Scheme/proposition' of the Government with foreign nationals etc., after allowing disinvestment